

## 2008 Homecoming Prayer Service

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### Spirit Week 2008

#### **Grant Bitzer, SHG Senior**

Cell phones, ipods, cars, clothing, popularity. This is just a short list of what some of us consider essential parts of our lives. We seem to think that without these items we cannot function. Although it is nice to have the latest fashion, the newest brand or nicer version of something, these are not the important things in our lives. What is important is that we are close to God, our family, our friends, and ourselves. In the Gospel reading, Matthew said don't store up treasures on earth. And he is right because when it is time for you to leave SHG people will remember you for the things that you did, not for what you owned or how popular you were.

Our world is constantly changing with newer technologies. Because we are all human we desire these new things. We also, as a society, want what others have, and tend to be followers of trends. We need to stop letting society dictate what we choose in our lives and make our own decisions.

God love her. My younger sister Hannah is the perfect example of a follower. She wants a cell phone for Christmas. She may need it, but that is not why she wants one. She wants a cell phone because all of her friends have one. I keep telling her that she needs to stop acting materialistic and manage with what she's got. I told her, that if she starts following trends now, she will keep following trends into high school and will never be able to be her true self. And that can sometimes lead you down the wrong path, especially in high school.

Not to just pick on Hannah I will pick on myself. I too can be materialistic. Last summer I wanted a new boat more than anything. Both Bryan and I begged and pleaded for a new boat, because the one we have now was made in 1972 and looks like a piece of junk. But at the beginning of this summer Bryan and I totally forgot that we had wanted a new boat. At the end of this summer my Grandpa reminded us on how much we wanted a new boat and how we forgot about it over the course of the winter. He was right, we didn't need a new boat, the old one ran like a charm.

That just goes to show you, even though you think you need something right away, if you just let it pass and not worry about it for awhile, you realize that you really didn't need it that much.

This past month I have had the privilege in talking to a former teacher of SHG, Fr Clint. After attending one of his masses I asked him, why does he sit in his chair for five minutes not saying anything after Communion. His response was, when do we ever get a moment of quiet in our lives that we can just sit and think without any distractions. He provides us with this moment to let us think about what is going on in our lives and have a little peace and quiet so that we aren't constantly stressing out.

In today's world it is very difficult to live our lives without concerning ourselves with the useless clutter around us. Everybody is so preoccupied with the daily commotion surrounding themselves they have no time to sit down and set their priorities straight. So I encourage you to take time out of your life to sit down, in silence, focus, and set your priorities straight. Ask yourself, do I really need this or will I just forget about it in a week from now. Do I believe in what I am doing or am I letting society or others influence my actions and what I believe in.

So in this upcoming week, let's not worry about the pointless details and drama surrounding Homecoming. Instead, think about the actions you choose to do, and ask yourself,

is this really who I am, or am I letting others influence me. So, show your school spirit, and go all out during spirit week. And remember, we were all born in the 90's, but we make our own future.

\*\*\*\*\* Grant Bitzer, SHG Senior \*\*\*\*\*

## Spirit Week 2008

**Rebecca Brenneisen**, SHG Senior

What outfit should I wear to the game this weekend? But then what shoes would match? Wow- did she really think she could pull those jeans off? She's so pretty I wish I looked like her. I can't believe they said all of that stuff about me. How many times a day do we ask ourselves these, or questions similar to these? But if we really sat down and thought about it- ten years from now, who's going to remember what outfit we wore or an unimportant piece of gossip that, of course at the time, we felt was life threatening. Too many great things will continually pass us by if we are spending all of our time worrying about how others may perceive us. Sure it's easy for me to stand up here and give you yet another long, drawn out speech about how we shouldn't care about our reputations or what others think of us. However, that's not really the point that I am trying to get across. We SHOULD care about what impact we've made on our peers- but for the right reasons. People never forget the little things that you may do for them, no matter how ordinary or unimportant they may seem at the time.

For example, I will never forget that in third grade we had to write a letter to each of our classmates at the end of the year. Most of them consisted of the types of things that you would expect a third grader to say- such as you're really cool or you're nice. But I distinctly remember reading one of my letters written to me by a girl that I went to school with since kindergarten but never really knew, you know the type of person that I'm talking about because we all have them. Anyway- she wrote to me about how she really looked up to me and how she hopes that we can become friends in the future. I know that this probably sounds stupid but it is something that I've taken with me for these past 8 years, and that I will probably never forget in the years to come.

But everything in life is not always as sweet as we would like it to be. Think back to grade school, specifically to a time that you remember someone making fun of someone else, or

a time that you may have been the one doing so. How did you react? Did you step up or just watch it happen? I can certainly remember a time that I got caught up in the moment of just letting it happen. I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, riding the bus home from school, extremely excited because one of my good friends was having a sleepover that night for her birthday. I kind of got snapped back to reality when I saw a girl picking on one of my friends. I watched her fight back her tears as she was being humiliated in front of all of us. I watched her get off the bus that day with tears in her eyes. But I did nothing, I mean yeah I felt bad, but I didn't do anything to help her or to see if she was okay. That night I went to my friend's party and completely forgot about what had happened earlier that day. But then, as we were just playing around on the computer, we received an instant message that I will never forget. My good friend, who had been extremely upset after school earlier that day, was dead. She had gotten into a car accident that night, and she and her mom did not survive. This was a significant event in my life that will be carried with me wherever I go.

What I'm trying to say is that we will always have good and bad experiences through our lives. But we must remember that everything happens for a reason. Although certain things, such as death, are inevitable and out of our hands- we also must realize that most of life has to do with our response to the tasks at hand. We've all loved, laughed, and cried- and even had our fair share of loss or failure- but looking back at everything we can smile knowing that without these experiences, we wouldn't be who we are today, we wouldn't be preparing ourselves for the future. Let us also remember that there are times when it's okay to break down and let everything out because it's not always best to keep everything inside. So make the effort to open up to people and to be the friend that others look for, lend that helping hand.

Ask yourselves, if you were to leave this earth tomorrow how would you be remembered? Live for the moment, try not to stress about past mistakes or future plans because

it will get you no where. Imagine a world with no possessions- it's hard if you try- a world with no greed or hunger but people working together for the common good. Imagine all the people living for today. Be yourself- be unique and march to the beat of your own drum.

One thing that I've learned that will forever stick with me is Mr. Bluhm's idea of our own "jars of experiences". What this means is that everything that has ever happened to you- you'll take with you wherever you go. So be sure to thank God for the memories, even if some of them weren't so good. Don't let life pass you by.

\*\*\*\*\* Rebecca Brenneisen, SHG Senior \*\*\*\*\*

## Spirit Week 2008

**Lili Stelle**, SHG Senior

The reading from Matthew asks the question, "Why are material goods so important to us?" God asks us not to worry about things like clothes and appearances, and rather focus more on our surroundings. God wants us to notice the grassy fields and the flowers and focus more on the kingdom of God in heaven and not so much on Earth.

The song we just heard, "Turn, Turn, Turn" is one of my favorite songs. It makes me think about a lot of things in my life. The song's main idea is that everything has a certain time and place. For example, the song says, "There is a time to build up, and a time to break down. There is a time to dance, and a time to mourn." But this song often makes me wonder, why? Why does everything have a time? Why is there a time to be born, and also, a time to die? And if there is a time and place for everything, then why do we spend a big majority of our time focusing on material objects.

Last week we remembered 9/11. We remembered in our hearts all those that were affected by it. We grieved for the children that lost their parents and the people who survived but had lost their friends and co-workers. It is times like these that really make me wonder if material possessions are really that important. I know that it didn't matter on 9/11. God was with them through it all and he didn't discern between which person was best dressed or which strongest or best looking. He was there for all of them because he doesn't care about what we look like. He cares about who we are.

This school year has been really stressful for the seniors. We have to write a lot of papers for college and last week we were asked to write a resume of what we have accomplished so far in our life. I wondered to myself, what if God would like to see our resume's as well. But instead of a resume of how successful we are, it is a resume of our souls. This resume shows

God who we are on the inside. How we think and interact, how we love, and how we show our faith. It would show our personalities in the sense if we are strong of lazy, compassionate, or apathetic. It would show the way we feel, the way we explore, the way we learn, understand, grow, and reason. I wondered if my resume would look good to God or not. God gave us so many things. What do we give back?

We all need to give back, to God and to the planet as a whole. Simply helping someone out is good enough for God. He wants us to appreciate the life he gives us but also appreciate the time we have. We know that there is a time to live and a time to die. We need to spend our time living by making a difference because we truly are the future. Do not worry about tomorrow, there is still time. Live each day to its fullest and remember its not too late. All of us, freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors were born in the 90s, and we were all made for the future.

\*\*\*\*\* Lili Stelle, SHG Senior \*\*\*\*\*

## Spirit Week 2008

**Dominic Walton**, SHG Senior

The thing in this world that I think we take for granted the most is time. We don't truly appreciate the time we spend around our friends, our family, and on this earth. As high schoolers, I'll be the first to say that our priorities aren't always in order. We value materialistic items like brand name clothes, cell phones, cars, and probably most of all, what other people think of us. How many times during the day do you wonder what someone is thinking about you or what they say about you? I can't stand here and say that I am innocent of not thinking these things as well. While writing this speech, I honestly have never been more disappointed with myself. I look back at my time here at SHG and I regret to say that I wasted a lot of time on things that don't mean anything to me now. I want to emphasize some key phrases from the Gospel reading for you guys that you might not have picked up on the first time you heard it.

“Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” The next time something is bothering you ask yourself is it worth getting upset over? Will this matter to me at all next week? You have to pick and choose your battles. We can all only worry about what we can control. The other line I want to emphasize is, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” This is something that I personally want to do a better job of and maybe you do too. Sometimes as teens, we don't realize how precious life is. Sometimes it takes a tragedy to show us how quickly life can be taken away from us.

All of the current seniors were freshman when this happened, but coming to school the day after the accident is still so clear and fresh in my mind. Death is unavoidable, no matter who you are. That is the only guarantee we all have in life. I know that whenever I pass away, I want to look God in the eye and say with confidence that I lived the way he intended me to and I lived

every day to the fullest. Don't let life pass you by. Live in the moment, live for the here and the now. Today is a gift that none of us should intend on wasting. We are all unique, creative, and beautiful individuals, created in God's image. He gave us all gifts and talents that we can use to make a difference today. How you use these gifts and talents are up to you though.

So, I hope that all of you students can be the light that God wants you to be. Don't be afraid to stand up for what is right, even if you're standing by yourself. We all have bright futures ahead of us and I am sure that each of us will make the best of our talents. So I say to you live life and keep in mind what is truly important. Francis Gray said, "Look well to this day. Yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this day."

Let's not waste anymore time. Remember we were born in the 90's and made for the future.

\*\*\*\*\* Dominic Walton, SHG Senior \*\*\*\*\*